Amendment to the Claims

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this Application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A PDF-exclusive, deflection and channeling method for the process handling of ~~a~~ **each** PDF ~~image-only~~ data stream which is en route to a printer, and which **PDF data stream** may include both PDF image-only, and other than PDF image-only, files, said method comprising

querying **each** such ~~a~~ PDF data stream to detect therein the presence of a PDF image-only file,

in association with, and as a part of, said querying, on detecting such a presence, and with respect to PDF image-only data present in the detected file, deflecting and channeling solely that image-only data to a full-time dedicated and exclusive, PDF image-only pipeline processing path en route to the printer, and

for PDF files in the **queried** data stream that are other than a PDF image-only file, performing with respect to PDF data in such other files separate, conventional PDF handling en route to the printer.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said deflecting and channeling includes specifically directing the detected, image-only PDF data alone to a path which includes processing steps involving image-only decoding, and downstream from image-only decoding, rendering for printing.

3. (Currently amended) Apparatus utilizing deflection and channeling for handling exclusively ~~a~~ **each** PDF ~~image-only~~ data stream which is en route to a printer where that **PDF** data stream may include both PDF image-only, and other than PDF image-only, files, said apparatus comprising

querying structure for querying ~~a~~ **each such** PDF data stream to detect, so as to deal through querying-based deflection and channeling with, exclusively therein the presence of any image-only block of PDF data, and

operatively connected to said querying structure, and downstream therefrom, (a)

PDF-exclusive processing structure which is full-time dedicated to PDF image-only data processing for processing image-only, deflected and channeled blocks of PDF data, and (b) ancillary processing structure for conventional PDF handling of non-image-only, ancillary PDF data which are other than image-only blocks of PDF data, wherein said querying structure, when querying a PDF data stream that is en route to a printer, deflects and channels solely the image-only PDF data from said processing structure which is provided for conventional PDF handling of non-image-only data to said processing structure which is dedicated solely to the handling of PDF image-only data processing when an image-only block of PDF data is detected.

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said PDF-exclusive processing structure which is dedicated to PDF image-only data processing includes image decoding structure, and downstream from said image decoding structure, render-for-printing structure.